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Senate Passes Patterson Resolution to Create Great Lakes Legislative Caucus

LANSING – A resolution sponsored by Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, calling for the creation of a Great Lakes Legislative Caucus was passed today by the Michigan Senate.

“The Great Lakes are not the responsibility of Michigan alone,” said Patterson. “What happens in Canadian waters and off the shores of other states has an impact on Michigan and her shorelines. We need to work together to preserve this precious natural resource and to protect our outdoor heritage for future generations.”

The Great Lakes Legislative Caucus would provide a well-coordinated and systematic approach to resolving issues facing the Great Lakes. Aquatic nuisance species, pollution, water levels, and water diversions are among the issues the new caucus would handle.

The caucus would also create more effective legislation, as it would be based on information developed and shared by policymakers from the entire Great Lakes region.

Senate Resolution No. 9 calls upon the legislatures of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and the legislative bodies of Ontario and Quebec to join in the formation of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus to address lakes issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

“The creation of a Great Lakes Legislative Caucus will help Michigan, and the surrounding legislative bodies, develop a comprehensive plan to address issues facing the health of the lakes,” Patterson said. “The caucus would provide a stronger and more

unified voice, which is necessary to maintain the largest system of fresh surface water in the world.”

Patterson is the Vice-Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee. As Senator of the 7th District, he represents the City of Northville, Northville Township, City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Van Buren Township, Belleville, Sumpter Township, Huron Township, Brownstown Township, Flat Rock, Woodhaven, Grosse Ile Township, Gibraltar, Rockwood, and Trenton.